

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

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24 May 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Chief, Intelligence Staff, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Conversation with [redacted] Assistant to the Deputy Director (Plans) for Executive Branch Matters, on 23 May 1961 Regarding Special Support Requirements

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25X1A 1. [redacted] called on 23 May to discuss with me a fairly extensive requirement which has been levied upon the Agency and [redacted] by Mr. McGeorge Bundy, Special Assistant to the President for International Security Affairs. [redacted] stated that Mr. Bundy was interested in systematizing the influx of material coming to the 5412 Group, as well as that relating to other high priority projects requiring consideration at the highest political levels.

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25X1A 2. The problem as [redacted] explained it appears to divide itself into two issues: One deals with the submission of material proceeding to the 5412 Group and presumably terminating there or being handled by them with higher authorities. Secondly, there is the problem of providing a regular monthly summary from DPD, covering reconnaissance objectives scheduled for a given calendar month, which report, once it was available to Mr. Bundy, would be reflected in postings made in a new Situation Room to be established in the White House for the President and overseen by [redacted] (former Executive Officer of OCB), who is now serving as Assistant to Mr. Bundy.

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3. In the first case [redacted] said he felt that we should continue to handle our staff papers and black books in the same manner as before, with the exception of the fact that Mr. Patrick Coyne of the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board will be the focal point for all of our material proceeding to the 5412 Group or to the White House for information or approvals. Apparently Coyne will be performing this task somewhat outside the limitations of his job as Secretary to the FIAB. I infer from this interposition of Coyne that in the case, for example, of a CORONA mission black book which we now normally furnish Brig. General Clifton for White House clearance, we would now route to the White House via DD/P and Mr. Coyne.

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4. In the case of the Situation Room, a development harkening back to the War Room of the Roosevelt Era, the requirement on IPD is slightly different. We will, according to [] be obliged to present by the first of each month a format of all planned reconnaissance activities for the following month. While no specific format has been discussed for such a report, I understand that it should be addressed to Mr. Bundy, via DD/P and Mr. Coyne of course, and should cover the following major headings for each activity: area in which coverage is proposed, i.e., FE, SR, WE, etc.; date or dates of proposed coverage; a general (but brief) statement of the basic mission, and a reflection of the date and place of major political approvals; i.e., "mission(s) approved by 5412 Group on 1 May 1961". I suspect that the format presently used in IPD to inform the DD/P of weekly activities is susceptible of adoption for this purpose. Our first such report is due for submission NLT COB 31 May, covering the month of June 1961. At the moment there is an unsettled question regarding the inclusion in this report of [] and Project CORONA, since the first of these is not strictly speaking a U. S. reconnaissance effort as such, and the second is at issue because it is unmanned versus manned reconnaissance. []

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[] said that he would check with Mr. Bissell on these two subjects and would advise me as to the inclusion of either or both in the impending report. One fairly complicating feature of my discussion with [] on this subject was that I did not know, and he was not sure, if he was CORONA cleared, although he readily admitted having prior knowledge of this activity and having handled some of the paper work connected with it in the approval stage.

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5. Mr. Coyne has requested all Agency clearances for [] through Mr. Kirkpatrick, which is his normal channel for such matters, and that in addition clearances were to be asked for two of Mr. Coyne's secretaries, a Miss Margaret Conlon and Mrs. Eleanor Dex. IPD/Security is taking action I understand on the last two individuals. The phrase "all clearances" for [] of course, does not include access to Project OXCART.

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[] expressed himself as being somewhat less than wholly inspired by the establishment of this additional mechanism in the Executive Branch, since it was his feeling and mine that there were many problems of access and control associated with the smooth working of such machinery, but we can both console ourselves with the knowledge that this same sort of requirement is being levied on the military services with regard to their various reconnaissance responsibilities.

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6. For the present then I believe we should thoughtfully evaluate the monthly report requirement, and I accordingly will request that [] in conjunction with [] draft a proposed

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format to include several sample mission proposals which should then reach me no later than the close of business 25 May for a first review.

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Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

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